

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01

EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EB-07 ACDA-07 /117 W

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O 081200Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5069

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UG, EG

SUBJ: POSSIBLE UNSC RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI RESCUE FROM ENTEBBE

REF: (A) CAIRO 9128, (B) STATE 167345, (C) STATE 166529

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF C, EMBOFF GAVE OUR VIEW OF ANY UNSC RESOLUTION ON ENTEBBE AFFAIR TO MFA'S ACTING CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION S DEPARTMENT RIDA AND ALSO PROVIDED AIDE MEMOIRE DRAWN FROM REF B, GIVING EVIDENCE OF UGANDA ASSISTANCE TO HIJACKERS.

2. RIDA AGREED THAT IN PRINCIPLE GOE HAS AND CONTINUES TO ESPOUSE PUBLICLY VIEW THAT EVERY GOVERNMENT HAS OBLIGATION PUT AN END TO ACTS OF TERRORISM. HE TOOK EXACT WORDING FROM PARA 3, REF C FOR TRANSMISSION TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK. HE PROMISED ALSO TO PHONE FONMIN FAHMY IMMEDIATELY IN ALEXANDRIA TO CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO HIM.

3. RIDA STRESSED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT WHETHER UGANDA GOVERNMENT CULPABLE

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OR NOT (AND HE WAS PRIVATELY PREPARED TO ADMIT THAT GOU PROBABLY DID

ASSIST HIJACKERS) IS, IN GOE VIEW, TOTALLY BESIDE THE POINT. PRINCIPLE

ISSUE IS ACT OF AGRESSION AGAINST SOVEREIGN STATE. HE RECALLED FONMIN FHAMY'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR EILTS JULY 5, IN WHICH FAHMY MADE SAME POINT THAT ISRAELI "AGRESSION" IS UNACCEPTABLE (REF A). RIDA NOTED THAT UNLIKE MOST CASES INVOLVING ISRAELIS, IT IS AFRICANS, NOT ARAB GROUP, WHICH IS TAKING THE LEAD, BUT IMPLIED THAT GOE WOULD SUPPORT ANY OAU DECISION ON A UNSC DRAFT. (COMMENT: FAHMY HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD AMBASSADOR GOE WOULD SUPPORT OAU ACTION TO CALL FOR UNSC MEETING--REF A).

4. RIDA SAID HE IS PRESENTLY SEEKING INFORMATION ON RANGE OF C-130S WITH VIEW TO DISCOVER WHETHER REFUELING STOP WAS NECESSARY. HE HAS TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED C-130 COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM ANY AIRPORT IN SINAI, SUCH AS SHARM AL-SHAikh, SO IS BASING HIS CALUCLATIONS ON A TAKE OFF WITHIN ISRAEL PROPER. HE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT PLANES MAY NOT, IF FACT, HAVE BEEN REFUELED IN NAIROBI, BUT THAT TWO OF THEM MERELY PAUSED THERE BRIEFLY. HE IS NOW SEEKING LEARN IF REFUELING ACTUALLY OCCURRED ELSEWHERE OR IF PLANES' RANGE REACHES FROM ISRAEL PROPER TO ENTEBBE AND BACK TO NAIROBI.

5. ON RELATED MATTER, REUTER CORRESPONDENT CALLED JULY 8 TO TELL US HIS NEW YROK OFFICE CLAIMS TEMPEST IS BREWING OVER WHAT WALDHEIM ACTUALLY SAID TO PRESS IN CAIRO AIRPORT EARLY MORNING JULY 6. MENA WIRE QUOTED HIM AS REFERRING TO "FLAGRANT VIOLATION," WHILE UN SECRETARIAT HAS APPARENTLY APPROVED VERSION RELEASED IN GENEVA REFERRING TO "VIOLATION" OF MEMBER STATE'S SOVEREIGNTY. REPORTING IN CAIRO PRESS SHEDS NO LIGHT. AKHBAR QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THERE WAS "FLAGRANT AGGRESSION AGAINST SOVEREIGNTY AND FREEDOM OF UN MEMBER STATE," WHILE AHRAM INDIRECTLY QUOTES HIM AS REFERRING TO "GRAVE VIOLATION AGAINST SOVEREIGNTY MEMBER STATE" EILTS

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